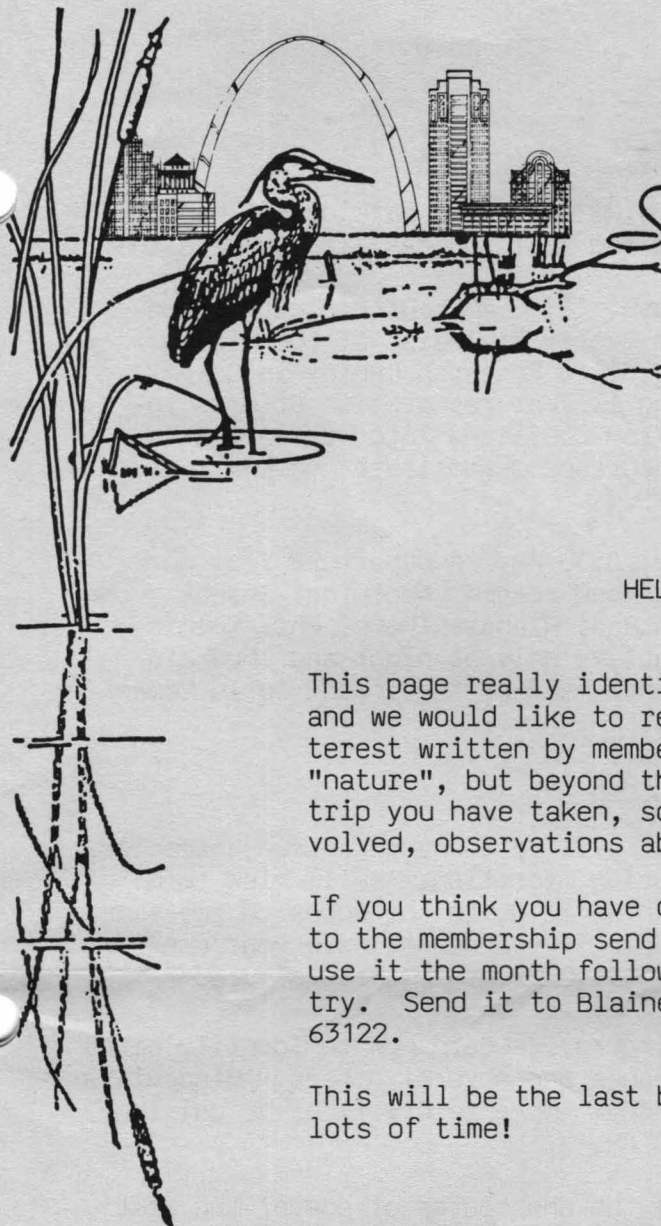


MAY 1989



Saint Louis Audubon Society

May 1989

HELP WANTED!!!

This page really identifies with Saint Louis Audubon Society and we would like to reserve it for articles of general interest written by members of our Society. The theme should "nature", but beyond that it is wide open. It could be a trip you have taken, some project in which you have been involved, observations about birds, insects, flowers, etc.

If you think you have done something that might be of interest to the membership send it in. We can't guarantee that we can use it the month following receipt of the article, but we will try. Send it to Blaine Ulmer, 425 Park Ave., Glendale, Mo. 63122.

This will be the last bulletin until late summer, so you have lots of time!

CALENDER OF EVENTS

- MAY 7 & 14
SUNDAY Forest Park Bird Walks. Meet at 8:00 AM in the parking lot behind the Art Museum. Bring binoculars and field guides, if you have them.
- MAY 14
SUNDAY Monthly Education Center Open House. 1:30 PM. Otter Restoration in Missouri. David Hamilton, Fur Bearer Biologist at the Missouri Dept. of Conservation Fish and Wildlife Research Center in Columbia, Mo. will describe the ongoing 11 year restoration efforts involving the placement of otters from Louisiana into Missouri's streams. Slides and a bit of video tape demonstrate the charm of these animals.
- JUNE 24
SATURDAY Monthly Education Center meeting. 8:30 PM. A departure from our usual Sunday schedule...but for a good reason..Nocturnal Insect Safari, or Blacklighting - Ted MacRae, Richard Thome, Phil Koenig, Mike Arduser. Many insects are active only at night and thus are rarely observed. Come see the other half of the insect world, some of which are stunningly beautiful.
- AUGUST A BUSCH MEMORIAL WILDLIFE AREA
- MAY 2 & 13 Shorebird/Songbird Watching. This will be a chance to see shorebirds rarely seen in Missouri except during migration. We'll view them during the peak of migration, then we'll go to the woods to see some songbirds. Binoculars are available if you do not have your own. Make reservations by calling 441-4554. Program starts at 9:00 AM.
- MAY 6, 7, &
13 Sounds of Spring (for beginner birders). Learn how to identify birds such as warblers, waterfowl, thrushes and several others. Binoculars are available if you do not have any. Make reservations by calling 441-4554. Program starts at 9:00 AM.
- MAY 7 Snake Program. Learn about the myths and truths of one of the most feared animals on earth. We will show a movie then a live snake (we will hold the snake). Make reservations by calling 441-4554. Program begins at 1:30 PM.
- MAY 12 Snake Program. Same as above, but begins at 7:30 PM.
- MAY 13 & 19 Mushroom Hike. If you have ever wondered which mushrooms are edible and which are poisonous; or where to look for different kinds of mushrooms, then this is the place to be. We'll have an indoor lecture, then go for a hike to search for different kinds of mushrooms. Program begins at 1:00 PM. To make reservations, call 441-4554.
- MAY 20 Tree Identification. Learn to tell the difference between oaks and hickories. This presentation will teach you everything and more about tree identification in Missouri. For reservations call 441-4554. Program begins at 2:00 PM.

AUDUBON AUDIBLES - from the message center

We thought you might be interested in a summary of phone calls received in the past month. Our apologies to the callers if we misspelled their names.

Hot spot for Eurasian tree sparrow - Trenton and Lamb in University City. 18 spotted at one feeder.

David Bowers calling to find an eagle picture for a boy at Cardinal Glennon Hospital. The eagle was the answer to a riddle that David had given the boy. Because of our work on Eagle Days, we had several pictures to send to David.

Sue and Jack Lamb called to tell us they placed two salt blocks in the garage at the Education Center so that we can place them in the woods for wildlife. Thank you, Sue and Jack.

Deb Dickerson from Spanish Lake called to say a Canada Goose with a banded leg was limping at their community lake area. The band seemed to be too tight on its leg. We suggested she call the Dept. of Conservation or the Wildlife Rescue Center.

Seven calls for membership information and five calls for bird pictures.

Bird houses and feeders were the subject of numerous calls. The hot subject for the month was purple martins. Are they here? When do they arrive? How high should their houses be? How far away from trees and shrubs? We'll try to run an article on this subject in the Bulletin next January.

Ray Hoerle called recalling the sighting of an Andean Condor in 1978 or 1979. No one believed he had seen it, but a newspaper ran an article on it. Does anyone remember this event?

Mary Brower called requesting information on birding to use for a Girl Scout Day Camp in July. Put her in touch with Harold Thiele of the Mo. Dept. of Conservation which has a program on birding for leaders.

We received several donations by phone. (We knew you could send pictures by fax machines, but didn't realize you could send money. What will they think of next?)

Betty Williamson saw an albino robin in her yard near Clayton Rd and 141.

Many, many calls on woodpeckers munching on cedar housing. Again referred them to Dept. of Conservation who have conducted a study on this problem.

Jan Moffitt sighted an Eastern Bittern in back yard near Sulphur Springs Rd. and Big Bend.

Diana Mensendick called to ask if it is possible she saw a whooping crane at Lost Valley Lake near Gerald, Missouri. Perhaps not too likely, but not impossible. There aren't too many birds to be confused with a whooping crane.

Mr. Brane will send us plans for a feeding and watering station for the yard.

We suspect you didn't realize the number and variety of phone calls our message center receives in a month.

SAINT LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS, BOARD
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1989-1990

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Blaine Ulmer - Editor - 966-5425
Wm. E. Wiese - 965-2310

MERAMEC STATE PARK

On Saturday, June 10, 1989, from 10:00AM to 6:00 PM, Meramec State Park will host a special event to celebrate the opening of its new visitor center.

Activities are planned, including the following:

Demonstrations on river fishing, canoeing, arrowhead making, backpacking, and wild edibles.

Free Fisher Cave tours.

Wildlife art displays.

Autograph sessions for books about Ozarks.

Live birds of prey programs.

Watermelon seed shooting contest.

Live music, storytelling, and other entertainment.

Childrens activities.

Tube float .

Pony rides.

Casting contest.

Nature exhibits and nature programs.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Disturbing reports and events regarding the world around us are now all too common. Bill Salsgiver's committee has been active in creating a solid foundation from which to respond to current conservation topics on the local, state, national and international levels.

The committee is reviewing information on legislation being debated as future laws in Missouri legislative committees; bills that require the attention of Audubon and its individual members. Information is collected from the field as well as the media and brought together to discuss strategy and formulate opinions to ultimately benefit the environment as a whole. St. Louis Audubon may then take a position on specific matters and present to the proper parties involved, be it governmental agencies or our Missouri legislators.

Much is being planned for the months to come leading into the fall session of the Missouri Legislature. So, if you are concerned about protectign our scenic Missouri rivers, international deforestation, destructive oil spills or any other current topics feel welcome to come and sit in on one of our meetings. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at the Audubon Education Center. If you have any questions please call Bill Salsgiver at 225-1490.

AN UPCOMING EVENT ON WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Most of us are aware of the present decline in the elephant and rhinoceros populations in Africa, primarily East Africa. Fortunately, efforts are underway to halt the onslaught that is wiping out the world's largenst land animals.

On May 23, the St. Louis Chapter of the American Association of Zookeepers (AAZK) is sponsoring a slide program entitled; "On the Brink of Extinction: The Black Rhinoceros in Kenya". The guest speaker will be Andy Lodge, Chairman of the Ngare Sergoi Rhino Support Group and pachyderm keeper at the Columbus Zoo in Ohio.

The Ngare Sergoi Rhino Support Group is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization which provides funding the Ngare Sergoi Rhino Sanctuary - a 10,000 acre preserve about 80 miles north of Nairobi, Kenya.

(con't page 5)

AN UPCOMING EVENT ON WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
(con't from page 4)

The preserve is run by a European woman, Anna Merz, and her contingent of workers and guards who work to safeguard the existing population of seventeen rhinos from poachers.

This should be an informative and inspirational evening for all. The event will be held in the sanctuary of the Webster Groves Christian Church from 7:00 - 9:00 PM. A \$2.00 donation is asked. If you have any questions please call Steve Tomey at 394-2070 (evening) or 781-0900 (ext. 267).

CAN WE HELP SAVE A WILDFLOWER GARDEN?

The proposed Page Avenue bridge across the Missouri River would cut through the center of Spring Bend, a farm belonging to Mrs. Wm. S. Knowles, the daughter of Edward Cherbonniee, a long time member of the St. Louis Audubon Society board of directors. Mr. Cherbonnier bought the 100 acre farm in 1935 and immediately started developing it into a beautiful wildflower garden, including both woods and prairie species. Dr. Peter Raven considered it "one of the loveliest and most significant collections of Missouri wildflowers to be found in any collection."

Besides the wildflowers, the farm also contains the spring where Lewis and Clark camped near St. Charles, and many Indian relics. A farmhouse built in 1836 and a log cottage is made of cross sections of logs so that the growth rings can be counted. These features would enhance its value as a public park in future years.

Within the next year the Corps of Engineers will hold a public hearing and consider an environmental impact statement. If you wish to help save this property, you could write letters to the two persons listed below expressing your interest in its preservation. The bridge is needed, but its access route could be changed so as to avoid Spring Bend:

Mr. J. T. Yarnell, District Engineer, Mo. Highway and Transportation Commission, 329 S. Kirkwood Rd., Kirkwood, Mo. 63122.

Mrs. Helen Schnure, Vice Chairman Mo. Highway & Transportation Commission
3016 Bluffwood Dr., St. Charles, Mo. 63301

IN MEMORIAM

St. Louis Audubon, and many similar environmentally oriented organizations lost a good friend and long time associate on April 24th when Vi Hallett died. Her many friends will remember her as an enthusiastic and dedicated participant in any project she undertook. She, and her late husband, Floyd, were instrumental in preparing the packet of maps of the St. Louis area showing the local, as well as the visiting, birders where the birding areas are and how to find them. In recent years she devoted her energy as a member of the staff in the Field Science Program at Tyson Research Center. This program provides an education in the natural sciences to young people, many of whom would have no other opportunity to acquire such knowledge.

She will be greatly missed, but not forgotten.

CONTRIBUTIONS

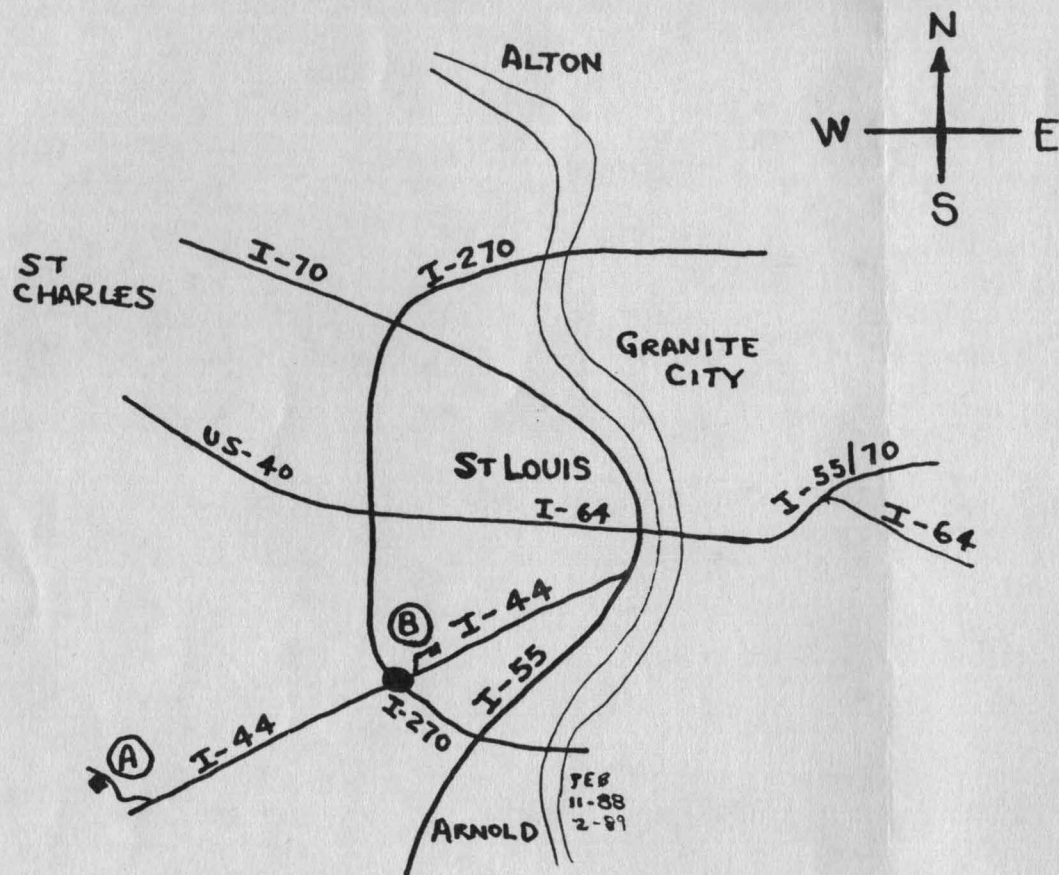
Mr. and Mrs. John G. Dreckshage
Esther Becker
Daffy Dils, Webster Groves Garden Club

MEMORIALS

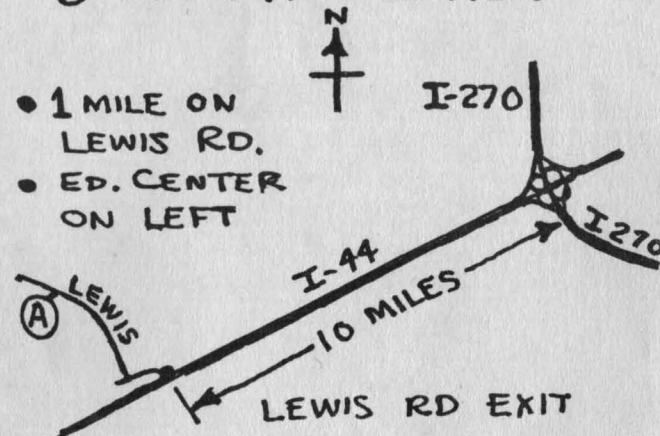
Ella Stillahn who was 91 years old when she died, loved watching birds and had been active in Audubon during her lifetime:

Mrs. Howard Rebhan
Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Koch
Mr. Jon Huntman

GETTING TO ST. LOUIS AUDUBON EVENTS



① EDUCATION CENTER



② WILDLIFE FILMS

